|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| General information |  |
| Region | **Central Africa** |
| Surface area | **2,345,410 km2** |
| Total Population | **98.370,000 (INS, 2020)\*** |
|  Urban pop. | **40%** |
|  Rural pop. | **60%**  |
| Access to basic water supply services | **33.6% (INS, 2019)\*\***  |
| Access to improved sanitation services | **32.6% (INS, 2019)\*\*** |

**Water Supply and Sanitation (WSS) Regulators in Africa – Country Profile**

**Democratic Republic of Congo**

**WSS Regulatory Status**

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
|  | Water | Sanitation |
| **Urban** | **Rural** | **Urban** | **Rural** |
| Type of Regulation | Ministerial regulation |  |
| Name of Regulator | *Ministère des Ressources Hydrauliques et de l’Electricité (MRHE)* |  |
| Year of establishment |  |
| Policy | National Water, Sanitation ad Hygiene (WASH) Framework Programme |
| Legal instrument | The Water Law 2015, Decree No. 15/039 of December, 2015 |
| Area of Jurisdiction | National |  |
| Number of regulated service providers | 2 (REGIDESO – urban; SNHR – peri urban & rural) |  |
| Type of service providers | National Public Utilities |  |
| Key functions of MRHE |
| * Elaboration of norms and standards for public water services
* Establishing conditions for approval of public water service operators
* Determination of rules for tariff setting (in collaboration with Ministry of Finance)
* Ensuring compliance with regulations through enforcement (i.e fining).
 |
| Note: Comprehensive Water Code requiring implementation |
| The DRC’s Water Code enacted in 2015[Ref](https://www.esawas.org/index.php/publications/general?task=download.send&id=68&catid=2&m=0) provides legal backing to various aspects of WSS service provision and water resources management. It specifies that the Government shall establish a regulatory authority for public water services with the following regulatory functions: 1. Ensuring compliance by water supply service providers
2. Monitoring the adherence to standards and norms by WSS service providers.
3. Establishing specifications for awarding concessions and any normative document within the public water supply services framework.
4. Aiding dispute resolution between operators and between consumers and public water supply service providers.
5. Determining the rules and procedures for fixing the elements of the tariff structure.
6. Ensuring that rates and tariffs do not exceed the permitted maximums.

The implementation of the Water Code has not proceeded as expected due to various governance and financial factors. In particular, Decree No. 22/04 on the creation, organisation, and operation of a Public Water Service Regulatory Authority (ARPSE) was passed in March 2022. This delay has resulted in regulatory functions for WSS being split across different ministries in a fragmented arrangement that is not effectively regulating WSS services ([Ref](https://www.esawas.org/index.php/publications/general?task=download.send&id=68&catid=2&m=0)) |
| \*[Source](https://ins.cd/wp-content/uploads/2022/06/ANNUAIRE-STATISTIQUE-2020.pdf) \*\*[Source](https://staging.openafrica.net/dataset/abb653d6-610e-4936-98d1-e368e9f3fadc/resource/17425c81-65d1-46b7-9108-b8e7bf8a34f3/download/congo-democratic-republic-of-the-2017-18-mics-sfr_french.pdf) For more information about MRHE, click [here](https://energie.gouv.cd/) |
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